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From the Editor-in-Chief

Research is not only exploration of the unknown but it is also observation of the known through a different lens and to critique what is widely perceived and accepted.

Taking forward the exploration of the theme, Research, Development and Social transformation, that was initiated in the previous issue of Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis, Dr. Rukshana Zaman, in the editorial of the current issue, outlines the various parameters that makes for a good research question and offers insights on ways and means to bridge the gap between research, development and ultimately social transformation. Transformation often leads to conflicts. The invited article by Prof. Madan reflects on the inevitability, importance as well as implication of conflicts in the society and how young people can be educated to engage in conflicts and to build concords in a better way. He discusses various worldwide theories about the causes of conflicts as well as strategies for dealing with conflicts. Hera Saud, in her original research article, reflects on the issue of housing in modern society. She asserts that housing today has become both a site of hope and despair and it is here that "inclusive cumulative social transformations initiated by capitalist industrial development" become visible. Aadita Chauhan and her group scrutinise how truth is constructed in documentary films. Their paper, focuses on the construction of such versions of the truth by analysing the documentary-series *Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes* available on the OTT platform of Netflix. The article by Reema "Gender and Humour in Indian Folk Tales- The Pañcatantra" looks at laughter as a serious business. In her article she argues that laughter, depending on who laughs and at whom, can be disciplining, repressive, subversive, rebellious and self-mocking.

The current issue of Vantage also explores some novel scientific advances and their implications. The review paper by Prof. Ritu Garg and her group discusses the enriched spectrum of charm and bottom mesons, focusing on heavy quark effective theory and potential model for studying heavy-light mesons, providing insights for future experiments The original research paper by Gaur and Mishra investigates the propagation dynamics of an Airy pulse in a medium with higher order dispersion and cubic Kerr nonlinearity. It reveals that higher order dispersion significantly influences the emergent soliton's dynamics, causing acceleration or deacceleration.

Naqvi and her group report and describe a new ciliate *Aponotohymena botrinucleata* from a freshwater pond in Saket, New Delhi, India. The findings are significant as cilates play a crucial role in nutrient cycling, microbial food webs, and symbiotic associations, etc. to maintain the balance of ecosystem.

In the book review section, we have Dr. Chayanika Biswas reviewing the book *A Doctor's Experiments in Bihar* authored by Dr. Taru Jindal. The book chronicles the exemplary journey of Dr. Taru Jindal who works tirelessly to mend a completely broken public health care system in a district hospital in Motihari, Bihar, India.

This issue also includes a report on Y20 India 2023 by Prakriti Kaushik who was a part of this Youth 20 (Y20) that is the youth engagement group of the G20, serving as the official consultation forum for youth from all G20 member countries to dialogue with each other. We hope you enjoy reading this eclectic collection on Research, Development and Social Transformation. We look forward to your valuable feedback.

~Haritma Chopra

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